



21 April 2020

Mr. Joseph Lloyd  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 33159  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2156

Reference: F-2020-00655

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

In the course of processing your 25 February 2017 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for records pertaining to **Gerald Patrick "Gerry" Hemming, Jr.**, FBI located CIA material and referred it to us on 25 May 2018 for review and direct response to you.

We have reviewed the enclosed 15 documents, which we determined can be released to you in their entirety.

If you have questions regarding our response, you may seek assistance from CIA's FOIA Public Liaison. You may reach the FOIA Public Liaison at 703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lilly".

Mark Lilly  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures



## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Sec. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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COUNTRY: Honduras  
 SUBJECT: Ex-Consul General in Los Angeles States  
 Opposition to Villeda Government/Suggests  
 Contact With Manuel Dejerano in Honduras  
 REPORT NO. CO-1 3,179,856  
 DATE DISTR. 28 February 1961  
 NO. PAGES 12  
 REFERENCES  
 DATE OF INFO. Late Jan 61  
 PLACE & DATE ACQ. 4 - /Late Jan 61

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; ex-non commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old former Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. During the 1960 portion of his stay in Cuba he became associated with members of the Frente Revolucionario Sandino, a Nicaraguan revolutionary movement led by Haroldo and Alejandro Martinez. Since his return to the US, he has remained in active contact with numerous persons sympathetic to revolutionary movements in Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America.

During the last several months [October 1960-January 1961] I have been working on arrangements to set up an operation in Honduras aimed at the capture of jungle animals for export to the US. My part in the operation would involve establishing and operating an animal compound in Honduras to keep the captured animals prior to shipping them North. I also would be involved in working with the crews engaged in the actual capture of the animals. This operation would provide some income to me and also possibly to the Frente Revolucionario Sandino (FRS) movement. It also would provide excellent cover for getting together and training a small group of FRS Nicaraguans in guerrilla activities. These men would spend most of their time in the jungles of Honduras capturing animals, but at the same time they could be training to work together, getting in good physical condition and learning some guerrilla tactics.

- When I inquired of one of my associates as to who might be a good person to contact here in Los Angeles to gain background information on persons in contact in Honduras, he suggested that I get together with Dr. Arnoldo Rodriguez (MD), the ex-Consul General of Honduras in this city. I met Dr. Rodriguez at his combination home/office, located at 132 North Soto Street, Los Angeles, California. He provided many helpful comments on the environment I would face in Honduras, and he also asked jokingly if we were going to start a revolution down there. He went on to say that he was not pleased with the Government of President Villeda Morales and that he was actively linked to various individuals in Honduras who were in opposition to the President.
- Dr. Rodriguez specifically recommended that I contact either Dr. Jose R. Duran or Dr. Paton Lirio, both of the Edificio Banco Atlantico in Tegucigalpa. He stated that both of these men were opposed to President Villeda and in sympathy with him (Dr. Rodriguez). The ex-Consul General also requested that if I were able to contact one Manuel Dejerano in Honduras it should

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be indicated to Bojerano that support (apparently both money and equipment) is available to him in Southern California (presumably through Dr Rodriguez) and also inside Honduras. Dr Rodriguez commented that Bojerano was of only mediocre intelligence and had not been able to consolidate his efforts against the Government of Honduras into an organized, popular movement, but that with guidance and support his popularity among the people could be capitalized upon and a powerful movement formed. I had previously heard from Nicaraguan sources that Bojerano was a Honduran bandit who had been opposing Honduran Governments for a number of years, and that he indeed was considered something of a hero by the local populace of Honduras.

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COUNTRY: Cuba  
 SUBJECT: Construction of "Tourist Center" on  
 Cayo Largo Rumored to be Related  
 to Either Submarine or Missile Activity  
 REPORT NO.: OO-R 3,170,12  
 DATE DISTR: 31 October 1960  
 NO. PAGES: 2  
 REFERENCE: CUB/OU Case 33369

DATE OF INFO: To mid-Aug 60  
 DATE ACQ: Throughout Cuba; To mid-Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October-November 1960).

1. During the period February-December 1959 I served as a Sergeant in the Paratroop Regiment of the Cuban Army. We were stationed at San Antonio de los Baños Air Force Base until May 1959; at which time the Regiment was moved to a bivouac area near San Jose de las Lajas, a small town about 35 miles southeast of Havana on the central highway. In December 1959 I transferred to the Cuban Air Force and was stationed at San Julian Air Force Base (inactive) in Pinar del Rio Province. I handled most of the training for the Paratroop Regiment at San Antonio de los Baños in addition to acting as platoon sergeant for one of the units. In these capacities I got to know many of the men in the Regiment quite well.

2. A number of my paratroopers (about 15) were sent to Cayo Largo, the easternmost large island of the Archipelago de los Camarreos, to set up what was officially referred to as a "tourist area." This was in early October 1959. When the Paratroop Regiment was disbanded in January 1960, an additional 50 paratroopers were sent to Cayo Largo to work on this project. I do not know how many other soldiers were engaged in construction projects on the island.

3. Cayo Largo is an extremely unlikely spot to build a tourist center. The island is extremely remote and is serviced from the port of Cienfuegos and the Naval facility at the Isla de Pinos. The mainland adjacent to Cayo Largo is sparsely populated and it would appear quite unlikely that Cubans from Havana would flock to this remote area. The island is about 11 miles by four miles, with a perfect bathing beach and few hills. Vegetation is sparse.

4. Cayo Largo could be used as a base of operations for submarines or as a missile site. Rumors about both of these plans were circulating throughout the armed forces of Cuba, but I can neither confirm nor deny them. S-E-C-R-E-T

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I talked to a few of my ex-paratroopers in April 1960 about their work on this island, and they told me they were building a two-lane gravel road the length of the island and that construction of numerous cabins was under way.

5. I again checked with an ex-paratrooper just prior to my departure from Havana in mid-August 1960. He had returned from Cayo Largo a few days before, and he reported that the cabins had been completed. He stated that Cuban Army personnel had constructed a number of small groups of cabins, each group containing 25 to 30 cabins. Some of the large cabins reportedly would hold up to 30 men using barracks type accommodations, and the majority of cabins held about 10 men each. The groups reportedly were located at various points on Cayo Largo, some in the central sector and others on the beach.

6. Cayo Largo would be an excellent spot for a secret submarine base or missile site, since it is surrounded by a number of small islands which could be easily protected and patrolled. Deep water exists on the south side of the island, and I believe there is a primitive landing area on the south beach. I have viewed the island from the air but have not set foot on it, therefore my knowledge of details is not great. In mid-1960 the Cuban soldiers were clearing an area for what appeared to be a light aircraft strip.

7. I do not recall any other rumors concerning the location of either submarine or missile bases in Cuba up to the time of my departure in mid-August 1960.

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COUNTRY Cuba/Nicaragua REPORT NO. 00- B 3,179,740  
 SUBJECT Status and Plans of Frente Revolucionario Sandino, Nicaraguan Revolutionary Movement DATE DISTR. 27 February 1961  
 NO. PAGES 3  
 REFERENCES  
 DATE OF INFO. Dec 60-Jan 61  
 PLACE & DATE ACQ. ---; Dec 60-Jan 61

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period February 1959 - July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. During 1960 source actively assisted the Frente Revolucionario Sandino, a Nicaraguan rebel movement led by Harold Martinez. When he left Cuba, source planned to return to Honduras to assist the Nicaraguan rebels. He maintains correspondence with numerous individuals sympathetic to the overthrow of the Somoza regime.

1. In mid-December 1960 I received a letter from Miss Stasia Sokolowska, 163 W. 179th Street, Bronx, New York, N.Y. I had become acquainted with her in Havana during the summer of 1960. At that time she lived in the East Colony of Havana, where she was associated with numerous leftists in the student colony in and around Havana. She became quite interested in the Nicaraguan rebels with whom I was associated, and indicated that she would help both in Cuba and later when she returned to the US.
2. Stasia's letter to me asked of my whereabouts, activities, state of health, etc. and I immediately sent a telegram to her indicating that she should call me at home. I received a call from her and in the course of the conversation she indicated that Harold Martinez, one of two Martinez brothers, leaders of the Frente Revolucionario Sandino (FRS), had left Cuba and arrived in Mexico City eight days after my departure (30 Aug 60) from Mexico City for my home in the US. She indicated that Harold's brother, Alejandro, had been released from a government prison in Tegucigalpa, and that Alejandro had departed on a safe conduct pass to Cuba and presently [mid-December 1960] is living in Havana.
3. I asked her about the current status of the FRS in Cuba and she indicated that FRS relations with the Cuban government were very, very friendly at present [mid-December 1960], whereas during the summer of 1960 they had been rather strained. At that time Nicaraguan elements who were Communist oriented and who were associated with various Communist groups in Havana had been trying to push Harold and his brother Alejandro out of the picture. Stasia indicated that G-2 personnel in Havana now were on very friendly terms with the FRS element.

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NO FURTHER ACTION

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4. Stasia reported that she had visited Honduras earlier in December 1960 and had stayed there for a few days. She had been out of contact with Harold Martinez and surprised him by arriving in Tegucigalpa. She stated that on returning to New York City her contacts had widened and her scope of operations had broadened, but that conditions were still not very favorable to the FRS movement and that various contacts that she had had with student elements and others had not been too productive.

5. I received a letter a few days later from Harold Martinez dated 20 Dec 60, a rough translation of which follows:

a. "Dear -

Received your letter dated 15 Dec 60. When I arrived in Mexico you had already left eight days earlier for the north. I immediately wrote to Chester [Simpson, a Nicaraguan who was raised in the US and who had been active in the FRS movement in Cuba] and Stasia [Sokolovska] asking that they inform me urgently of your whereabouts but neither one could give me this information. Now that we once again are in contact I am happy that we will be able to develop a large quantity of work that is very important. For the present do not move from the US. Try and get a passport, if possible, so that you will be able to travel without difficulty.

b. "Various points which you had noted in your letter appear to be practical; that is, we will be able to pursue them to our end. Among these points are the following principal ones:

- (1) Do not move from the US until I advise you, which will be soon.
- (2) Continue in contact with Jimmy [Gentry, 953 Penn Street, SE, Apt. 8, Miami, Florida] in relation to the subjects we talked of in Havana.
- (3) Continue developing the work you started in relation to the aircraft, which is important [source explained that this referred to his efforts to arrange for the use of an aircraft in connection with the FRS movement].
- (4) Send me more details concerning the contacts that you have made to do the work of hunting animals [in Honduras and British Honduras; source has been working on arrangements to travel to Honduras for a group of US nationals interested in procuring jungle animals for importation into the US. This would provide not only funds for the FRS movement but also would serve as a cover operation to get together many of the members of this movement and train them in the mountains of Honduras.]
- (5) In reference to the automobile which you reported you were trying to obtain, it is a good idea but it must be very strong because of the poor highways in Honduras.
- (6) We are able to obtain all of the materials necessary to begin the construction of the business [source reported this indicates that equipment and arms, ammunition, and other supplies are readily available in Honduras]. What we do need is money. The only equipment which is required from the US is radio equipment. This will simplify the work that we have to do. Pass this on to Jimmy [Gentry].

c. "About the other information that you asked for, right now I am not able to provide it, but very soon I will have it and will pass it on to you. [Information that source requested concerned reconnaissance data on the northern coast of Honduras. He had informed Harold Martinez that he needed information concerning the beaches, terrain, etc. near La Ceiba, San Pedro and Chula in the northern coastal region of Honduras. Source had hinted to Martinez that he might arrive in that region by parachute with equipment or possibly he would be dropping equipment in the area. Thus he wanted the reconnaissance data and he also had requested one or more safe houses established in that area.]

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d. "I am now writing a letter to your fiancée and I enclose a letter to you from her. Regarding 'El Barbon' he is now in El Salvador. (El Barbon is Alfonso Salazar, a person who enjoyed running around with a beard in Havana, playing rebel. He had been wounded at El Chaparral in Honduras during June 1960 in the action in which a group of individuals under Rafael San Martin had penetrated to the vicinity of the Nicaraguan Honduras border and then been ambushed by Major (Cruz) Espinosa of the Honduran Army. Chester Simpson was wounded in the same engagement. The reference to El Barbon refers to a question I had addressed to Harold Martinez in a previous letter)

e. "Have confidence that we will carry out our desires, the only thing is time. We will have to go slowly but surely. Do not get impatient because we have to do these things very slowly, so that we do not fall in the same traps that we have fallen into before. I believe that the situation in my country (Nicaragua) is better than ever. That is to say that conditions are very good and that we will be able to begin our work in reality with great possibilities of success.

f. "Stasia Sokolowska was here 15 days ago (5 Dec 60) and she did some very good work. Please address letters to me as follows:

Sr. Ricardo Gonzalez  
Tesoreria de la Universidad (Treasurer of  
the University)  
c/o Irene Castro Reyes  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

[source reports that Irene Castro probably was one of the nurses who helped nurse Martinez back to health after he was wounded in a Nicaraguan uprising in 1958.]

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3,170,616

3,178,167

3,179,740

3,179,836

CO-A(5)-3,170,536

3,170,529

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CO-A-3,178,533

A review of these reports should give a better idea of whether or not Hemming might prove useful.

- end -

Encl: Form, "Application for Commission or Warrant Rank, U.S. Army or Naval Reserve" - Gerald Patrick Hemming, Jr.

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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REPORT NO. OO-*A* 3176615

DATE DISC.

NO. PAGES

## REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO To mid-AUG 60

PLACE & DATE ACQ. Throughout Cuba; To mid-Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October-November 1960).

1. I worked with Captain Geraldo Guido during my tour of duty with the Paratroop Regiment of the Cuban Army (February-December 1959). Captain Guido served as the physical culture instructor for the Paratroop Regiment. While Captain Guido is a Cuban, he migrated to Germany in 1939 and served in the "Waffen-SS" until 1945.
2. Captain Guido told me in various conversations that he had been involved in numerous anti-Brigade expeditions and that he also had joined the 1954 "Pablo Real" expedition to Nicaragua. Captain Guido joined the Castro Forces in 1957. He was jailed by the Castro regime in May 1960 by Cuban G-2 officials at the Fifth Avenue Headquarters, Miramar District, Havana.
3. It was rumored just prior to my departure from Cuba (21 Aug 60) that Captain Guido had been released in early August 1960 along with the ex-chief of the "Organizacion Autentica" (ex-President Carlos Prío's party).

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REPORT NO. CO- B 3,172,187

DATE DISTR: 28 November 1969

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## REFERENCES

DATE OF: mid-Nov 60 and earlier

DATE ACQ. Mid-Nov. 60 and earlier

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. During 1960 source became friendly with Harold Martinez, one of the leaders of a Nicaraguan rebel force which was being trained in Cuba, and also met and talked with Dr Enrique Locayo Parfan. When he left Cuba he planned to return to Honduras to assist the Nicaraguan rebels under the leadership of the Martinez brothers.

1. Dr. Enrique Farfan hooded the Nicaraguan 21st of September Movement, the name stemming from the date of the assassination of President Anastasio Somoza Sr. Dr. Farfan was implicated in this shooting and was imprisoned for some time. He previously had been a professor at the University of Leon and an active political figure under Somoza Sr.
2. I believe Dr. Farfan directed the latest attempt by Nicaraguan rebels to invade that country (mid-November 1960). In my opinion the invasion was a combined effort involving the 21st of September Movement and the Communist oriented and directed Frente Unitario Nicaraguense (FUN) movement. Press reports mentioning Gen Carlos Pasos as one of the rebel leaders reinforce my belief, since I was told by numerous Nicaraguans in Cuba (1959-60) that Gen Pasos is a FUN member. Dr. Farfan developed close ties with FUN during 1960, as will be described in more detail below.
3. I met Dr. Farfan in mid-1959 in Cuba and had numerous opportunities to talk with some of his friends and also with some of his enemies. He had been actively selling Nicaraguan "revolutionary bonds" in Cuba from May 1959 on until such sales were discontinued in January 1960. He was not in actual disfavor in Cuba until after the ill-fated Ramirez Expedition in October-November 1959. When a large number of arms supposed to have been used by the Ramirez force turned up in anti-Castro hands, Dr. Farfan was blamed. He has not been welcome in Cuba since.
4. Dr. Farfan is considered by both Cubans and Nicaraguans to be a political opportunist who is more interested in developing a revolutionary movement to better his own living standards than in leading his movement in an actual fight to overthrow a dictator and provide a better government. He did not impress me as either a strong political leader or an able fighter. During the period I knew him in Havana, he successfully raised large sums of money and many of his detractors claimed he spent much of it in high living.

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Approved for Release: 2020/04/21 : C06841281

5. To my knowledge, Dr Farfan first became associated with FUN when he attended two FUN meetings in Caracas, Venezuela in March and May, 1960. I spent five days in a Havana prison in July 1960 with a Cuban, whose name I cannot recall, who was reported to have been the "number two" man in Dr Farfan's organization. This man said that Dr Farfan had decided to work with the FUN organization to create a more powerful and effective force. According to my fellow prisoner, Dr Farfan was not a Communist nor was he controlled by the FUN organization.
6. I previously mentioned that Gen Paez was and is tied to FUN. He was present during 1955 at a training camp for Nicaraguan and Dominican rebels at Mdruga, Cuba, just outside of Havana. This camp was closed after an accident with a grenade killed nine rebels in September 1959. Incidentally, some other Nicaraguan rebels were trained at La Cabaña in an effort tied to "Che" Guevara. This latter training took the form chiefly of indoctrination classes in Communist doctrine.
7. Gen Paez appeared to be a soldier of the old Latin American school who thought of warfare entirely in terms of large numbers of troops fighting major battles. He had no understanding of guerrilla warfare.
8. The fact that the Nicaraguan rebels attempted to invade that country from Costa Rica is no accident. Dr Farfan has numerous influential friends inside and outside the Costa Rican Government. He was assisted by ex-President Figueres in an abortive invasion of Nicaragua in July 1957, when the Costa Ricans supplied him with aircraft. Dr Farfan cannot operate in Honduras, however, where he is thoroughly distrusted by several Nicaraguan rebel groups including those headed by the Martinez brothers and by Otto Castro.
9. It is not possible to launch a successful, small-scale invasion of Nicaragua from Costa Rica. The terrain does not lend itself to guerrilla activities. It is not mountainous and Nicaraguan reinforcements can easily be transported rapidly to the area by boat down Lake Nicaragua. Harold Martinez discussed this terrain with me while we were together in Cuba and in addition to the above he mentioned that the area is sparsely populated so it is difficult to develop public support rapidly. Two other factors make the current invasion attempt even more ludicrous. The rebels have a hostile Costa Rican army at their back. They also have picked the season during which the rivers in the area flood, which impedes them just as much as it impedes their opposition.
10. I am not certain as to why Dr Farfan would pick this particular time to launch an invasion of Nicaragua. One possible explanation would be that he again believed it was time some cheating occurred, since he has trouble getting people to believe he is a serious revolutionary. Another factor might be that the Cuban Communists are giving their complete support to FUN (even before I left Cuba in August 1960 the Communists were attempting to guide all Nicaraguan rebels in Cuba to the Pro-Liberation Movement, which supported FUN) and Dr Farfan may have believed his forces combined with FUN support could win.
11. I noticed that several press reports mentioned a Carlos Luque de Estrada. I remember a prominent Cuban rebel, a Maj Carlos Luque, who was one of Premier Castro's right hand men. This man fought in Castro's Army under Robert Mayo and later testified against Mayo at his court martial. Castro was fond of describing Duque as a farmer with no education, but a very brave man.

end.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba  
 REPORT NO. 00-0.3,167,505  
 SUBJECT Cuban Airfields: San Julian, Pinar del Rio, Mariel Naval Air Station, Antonio Maceo, Camaguey, and Trinidad  
 DATE DISTR. 28 October 1960  
 NO. PAGES 4  
 REFERENCES CU/OS Case 33369 (UGAP)  
 DATE OF FC. Jan - Aug 60  
 DATE & TIME ACQ. Throughout Cuba/Jan - Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. SOURCE US national; former US Marine non-commissioned officer.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the US Marines to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high-school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer who has been well trained in small unit military tactics. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October - November 1960).

1. In December 1959 I transferred from the Paratroop Regiment of the Cuban Army to the Cuban Air Force. While such a transfer would be unusual in the US, it was not at all out of the ordinary in Cuba because of the chaotic conditions in the Cuban military and the shortage of trained pilots in the Cuban Air Force. I spent the period December 1959 - June 1960 in the Cuban Air Force, and I was stationed at San Julian Air Force Base, Pinar del Rio Province, during this entire period. San Julian is located 15 miles east of the small port of La Fe and 10 miles north of the small town of Las Martinas. I am not a licensed pilot, but I had flown numerous aircraft and had had many hours of unofficial instruction during my tour in the US Marine Corps. The Cuban Air Force was so short on qualified pilots during my stay that I was allowed to fly F-47's, L-20 Beavers, and numerous lighter aircraft.

San Julian Air Force Base

2. San Julian, while not an operational Cuban Air Force Base during the period December 1959 - June 1960, was responsible for the defense of western Pinar del Rio Province. The province was divided by a line running roughly north and south through the city of Pinar del Rio. The defense of the area to the east of this line was the responsibility of the Naval Air Station at Mariel. Most of the aircraft at San Julian up to the time of my departure were obsolete. The aircraft included three C-45's; two F-47's (both inoperative, but one had been flying during January-June 1960 until the brakes locked on landing and the aircraft ground-looped); two AT-6's (one operational and the other under repair); and one F-51 (inoperational due to lack of spares).

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The field has two runways (8/26 and 1/19), both seven-thousand ft long, 150 ft wide, and with excellent asphalt surface. The base is located on a relatively level plain surrounded on the west, south, and east sides by giant thorn bushes. One open hangar area is located on this base, plus a five-story control tower. Communications equipment (VHF and HF-CW) is located on the third floor of the control tower.

4. A civilian aeronautical technical school for mechanics is located near the tower at the center of the base. Since February 1960 this school served as the headquarters for the Rural Police Officers School and as late as August 1960 the base had from 500-800 rural militia based for training at San Julian. Discipline and training at this school were primitive. The head of the school was (and presumably still is) a Capt FNU Mata (a Cuban negro). He is the ex-adjutant to Argentine Communist Maj Ernesto "Che" Guevara who, in addition to his other duties, is the Cuban Army G-3 (chief of training). The driver for Capt Mata, and also his good friend, is a man named Jose "Peludo" Garcia.

5. The HF-CW communications equipment at San Julian is a standard US Army field set. The VHF equipment is civilian equipment made by an unidentified US manufacturer. The VHF set uses crystals. San Julian Air Force Base also has an IP homing beacon which can be used in conjunction with aircraft radio compasses to home on the base. The keyed signal of this beacon was recently changed and I am not sure what the new signal is. The only other communications equipment at this base is an HF car phone set (a two-way radio similar to US police radios).

6. Communications between San Julian and Havana are intermittent. A routine communications check using the HF-CW is made with Havana every half hour. No one gets excited, however, if the check-in is missed because of the poor communications facilities at the base. Many times when we wanted to send a message to Havana we had to relay the message via the car phone to the town of Guane, where a large HF antenna is located. I believe the call sign at Guane is R-23. Guane, in turn, would relay the message to Pinar del Rio where it was then transmitted to Havana.

#### Civil Airport -- Pinar del Rio

A small civilian airport is located about one-half mile outside the city of Pinar del Rio adjacent to the military headquarters for the province. This field has one five-thousand-ft asphalt runway sufficient for light aircraft. No C-130 equipment is available at the airport and the only cargo handling machinery is one fork lift of about one thousand lbs capacity. Utilities, both water and power, are municipally supplied and there are no alternate sources of power. Two small hangars are located at this airport.

A small, dirt strip was built adjacent to the military headquarters building outside Pinar del Rio. This strip was constructed at the request of Maj "Pepito", adjutant to the Commander of Pinar del Rio Province, Maj Bernido Encalona. The adjutant wanted to learn to fly light planes in order to travel more rapidly between his headquarters and Havana. The strip was extremely rough, however, and Maj "Pepito" cracked up a Piper Tri-Pacer while attempting to land. This dirt field was not used after the crash. The adjutant acquired a new Tri-Pacer in June 1960, but the aircraft is based at and flown from the Pinar del Rio Civil Airport.

#### Mariel Naval Air Station

The following aircraft are located at this base: five Hawker Sea Furies (the only five such aircraft in the Cuban Naval Air Force); two TBF Avengers; one Cessna 180; a number of Cessna 170's; and I believe two H-19 helicopters. Facilities at the Mariel Naval Air Station are quite modern but I did not have the chance to look them over closely. I heard that most of the ground personnel at Mariel were US-trained, which would make them quite capable by Cuban standards.

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10. Mechanics from Bristol Aviation Co. visited Mariel for about five months in early 1960 to change the starting systems on the Sea Puries from explosive cartridge to electric systems. I talked to one of the British mechanics before he left and he said that there had been no problems in modifying these aircraft and that the Cuban mechanics at Mariel had performed well.

#### Additional Small Airfields in Pinar del Río Province

11. A number of small strips are scattered around Pinar del Río, all of which are kept blocked by palm trees laid on the runways. I noticed several times in flying patrols over the western region of this province that one or another of these emergency fields had been cleared of palm trees by counter-revolutionaries. Whenever it was found that a field had been cleared a patrol would be sent out to reblock the field. I can only remember the specific location of one such emergency airfield, this one at Consolacion del Norte. This field is located about 20 miles east of the village of Dimas and about three miles inland from the coast. It is very near the highway connecting Dimas with Santa Lucia. The field has one grass-covered landing strip about three thousand ft in length. It normally is blocked with palm trees scattered at about 50-yard intervals.
12. In addition to the above-mentioned emergency airfields, most of the sugar centrales have two thousand ft landing strips for light planes. I know that both San Cristóbal and San Juan y Martínez have such strips. All these sugar central fields are dirt strips, but they can handle aircraft up to AT-6 size. The chief difficulty at these fields is the lack of facilities to handle aviation gas, which usually is supplied by truck and trailer or in such less efficient fashion by 55 gallon drums with hand pumps. In addition, the main highway between the towns of Cortés and Las Martinas can be safely used to land aircraft up to about the size of an L-20 Beaver. This highway, which is shown on some maps ending at Guane, actually forks some distance from Guane and the new fork continues on to La Fe, El Cayuco, Las Martinas, and Cortés.

#### Antonio Maceo Air Force Base

13. This field has one small hangar and is a maintenance base for C-47 aircraft. The airport facilities are being rebuilt but I do not know whether the job has been completed or just what changes were involved. The field has two auxiliary starting units for C-47's and I believe they have a "plug in" for F-47's. No jet engine starting units are available at Antonio Maceo. The landing strip is only five thousand ft long. Power for the field is supplied by the town of Santiago but an emergency power source is available at the airport. This emergency power equipment is maintained continuously. Water is supplied from a large tank (about 100 thousand gallons capacity, typical US Army-type construction) and also from a nearby reservoir. An unidentified civilian is in charge of the airport. Two Cuban Army technicians handle all communications.

#### Camagüey Airfield

14. This airport is still considered to be a civilian field. I believe they have a T-33 starting unit available but to my knowledge they have no jet fuel, only aviation gas. The landing strip is still just six thousand ft long. I saw two ammunition bunkers located near the tower at Camagüey. These were typical US Army-type bunkers, all concrete construction, about 15' x 15', with a combination lock on the door. As I recall, the locks on both doors had been broken and the doors were closed and padlocked. I believe a number of 500 lb bombs were stored in these bunkers but I do not believe any of the bombs had tail fins. Approved for Release: 2020/04/21 C06841287 nt technicians



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Trinidad Airfield

15. This field is used only for charter flights and has no facilities other than a couple of chacks used as waiting rooms. No radio or tower equipment is available. The field has no crash equipment and no cargo handling facilities.

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COUNTRY Cuba REPORT NO. CO-33270,616  
 SUBJECT Western Pinar del Rio Province: Militia; DATE DIS. 7 October 1960  
 Parachute Drop Fields; Ports, Port  
 Outposts and Landing Beaches; Military NO. PAGES 13  
 Establishments. REFERENCES ID/CO-Cuba 33269  
 DATE OF INFO To Mid-Aug 60  
 PLACES & DATES Throughout Western Pinar del Rio Province/To Mid-Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.  
 Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (late October - November 1960).

Militia at San Julian Base

- The major military establishment in Western Pinar del Rio is the San Julian Air Base located about 15 miles east of the port of La Fe and about 10 miles north of the town of Las Martinis. I served most of my tour of duty in the Cuban Air Force (December 1959 - June 1960) at San Julian. San Julian Air Base has two runways (8/26 and 1/19), each seven thousand ft in length, 150 ft wide, and both with excellent asphalt surfaces. The base is in a relatively level plains area surrounded on the west, south and east sides by giant thorn bushes. This base would be extremely difficult to defend even with experienced troops, and as it existed up to the time I left it was very easy to enter and lightly defended.
- A Civilian Aeronautical Technical School for Mechanics was located at the center of the base. Since February 1960 this school has served as Headquarters for the Rural Police Officers School (militia) and in August 1960 from 500-800 militia were based for training at the school. The head of the school is Capt. Eno Mata, a Cuban negro, the ex-adjutant to Maj. One Guevara.
- Some of the militia in training at the San Julian base graduated from a basic infantry course (about three months in duration) on 30 Jul 60. Instruction was provided by personnel of the Rural Police Officers School under Capt Mata. The training was not at all thorough and consisted of a rather hopeless mixture of basic drill, target practice, and guerrilla tactics. The officers of the school would argue among themselves as to how much time should be devoted to drill as opposed to guerrilla tactics.

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for instance, and as a consequence, sufficient time was not spent on either subject. Target practice consisted only of firing a few rounds from the old US Springfield rifle, the Brazilian Mauser, or later, the Czech semi-automatic carbine.

The militia at San Julian Air Base were armed (as of August 1960) with 300 bolt action Brazilian Mausers, a small supply of Czech semi-automatic carbines (which arrived in August 1960) and some old US Springfield rifles. Very little ammunition was available for the Brazilian Mausers. The militia in this area had no canteens, packs, or other equipment. Barracks facilities on the base were primitive, although new barracks were under construction.

#### Parachute Drop Fields

5. In the immediate vicinity of the San Julian military establishment are five very large farm fields (the nearest located one-half mile southwest of the base) which could serve as ideal drop zones for paratroops or equipment. I made a number of jumps into these fields. I once jumped into a field on the outskirts of Cayuco (the field is located about three miles outside of Cayuco near the highway from that city to La Zo) wearing my old US Marine Corps fatigues. As an experiment I spoke only English to the Cuban workers in this field and they did not appear to be at all surprised by this rather strange development. The only furor came when the RMA official in charge of the workers at the field drove up in his jeep, discovered that I was speaking English, and then proceeded to try to find an interpreter, not to interrogate me but merely to converse in a friendly fashion. It should be kept in mind that this jump was made about the time of the bombing of the sugar fields by "pirate" aircraft with attendant howls by the Castro regime that these attacks were US-inspired. I encountered no hostility on either this or several other jumps in the San Julian area made in my old US Marine Corps fatigues and speaking English to the natives after I landed.

6. Four other fields in the vicinity of the San Julian base should be mentioned as suitable for jumps. Two adjacent fields separated by about 100 yards of vegetation are located about four miles west (bearing 250°) from the airfield. The other two fields are located south of the base near the road connecting Las Martinis and Cortes. Another suitable area is located between 5-10 miles northwest of the San Julian base in an expanse of rolling hills which are fairly clear of large vegetation.

#### Port, Port Facilities and Beaches

7. The fishing port of Cortes is located roughly 15 miles southeast of San Julian, and an ideal landing beach stretches from the entrance of Cortes harbor for some five miles to the west. The small fishing village of La Fumia is located one mile west of Cabo Frances. Rock cliffs varying from 20-30 ft in height begin west of La Fumia. Cabo Frances has a blinking type navigation light on a 30 ft steel tower. The beach east of the La Fumia cliffs is about 50 ft wide at low tide and consists of fine sand with a steep gradient. The shoreline is covered with trees and shrubbery. The only settlement in the 20 or so miles of shoreline stretching from Cayuco to Cortes is La Fumia, with a population estimated at about 250. Rocky, firm ground with thick vegetation stretches back from the beach for 4-7 miles to the nearest paved road running from Cortes to Las Martinis and Cayuco. A dirt road connects La Fumia with the paved road and a second dirt road begins at La Fumia and runs east to Cortes on the edge of the shore (about 30 ft inside the trees and vegetation along the beach).

8. The port of Cortes is defended by 10 badly disciplined sailors under the command of a chief warrant officer. They are armed with Springfield rifles plus two Thompson sub-machine guns. These men also possess a jeep and a small fishing boat but they do not patrol the area. The town of Las Martinis has a 50-man militia force which I trained myself and led on combat patrols against the anti-revolutionaries in the area.

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NO DIRECT AIRMAIL

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9. West of San Julian Air Base about 10 miles is the small port of La Fe which is defended by about 15 sailors under the command of a petty officer second-class. This force has one small fishing boat and a radio with a 120 ft antenna for contact with the naval command at Mariel. La Fe has a fine, small harbor and a wide, navigable river flows into the harbor about four miles north of La Fe.
10. The large, sandy fields near San Julian are ungraded and generally are used for the growing of peanuts and tomatoes. A number of large hills are located near the town of Mandana. One of these, almost inaccessible with 100 ft cliffs, commands all highway approaches from Havana to this western area. Travel in this area is restricted to the roads because of the impenetrable thorn bushes which abound, and the roads are all located within range of small mortar fire. These hills appear to be ignored by the local command.
11. Landings by anti-Castro forces on the north shore of this area (10 Jan 60) were compromised by betrayal and personnel were captured upon landing. Aircraft dropped arms by parachute at the time of the landings but all arms were captured. It appeared that the arms were dropped blind with no receiving party.

#### Military Establishments

12. The military headquarters for Pinar del Rio province is located about six miles west of Mandana. The commander of Pinar del Rio is Maj Darnaldio Escalona who fought against the Batista regime in the mountains of this province during 1958. Maj Escalona lives adjacent to his regimental headquarters, a large military establishment of about 400 troops. I believe the radio call sign for this headquarters is E-21. The headquarters has a few, badly located 50 caliber machine guns for anti-aircraft defense. The town of Mandana contains a force of 19 men with three motorcycles and one automobile but the force rarely patrols. Camp contains a military barracks in the center of the town manned by about 150 men. These men are armed with Carand and Springfield rifles, three or four 30-caliber machine guns (heavy), two German M-34's, and some San Cristobal castles. The force also has three jeeps and one radio car at its disposal. The barracks radio station is called E-23.

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COUNTRY Cuba  
 SUBJECT Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria (FAR);  
 Maj Del Valle, Chief; Diaz Lanz Man  
 Retain Key Positions; Flying Personnel;  
 Combat Aircraft  
 REPORT NO. OO-B 3,169,802  
 DATE DISTR. 28 October 1960  
 NO. PAGES 2  
 REFERENCES CD/CG Case 33369  
 (USA?)  
 DATE OF Jan-Aug 60  
 COVERAGE Throughout Cuba/Jan-Aug 60  
 TRACK

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SUBJECT US national; former US Marine Corps non-commissioned officer.

Source is a 23-year-old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been recruited by the US Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high-school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October - November 1960).

1. The Cuban Air Force Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria (FAR) was in a state of turmoil during my tour of duty, from December 1959 to mid-June 1960. Although I was stationed at San Julian Air Force Base (this field was not an operational Air Force Base, but it served as the training base for the militia of Pinar del Rio Province and also handled the patrol flights over the western half of the province), I flew throughout Cuba and was able to obtain a fairly accurate picture of Air Force happenings. My prior duty in the Paratroop Regiment of the Cuban Army also threw me in contact with a number of Air Force personnel. In addition, I maintained close contact with some of the Nicaraguan pilots in the Air Force.
2. The commander of the Cuban Air Force during the time I served with the organization was Maj Sergio Del Valle, an MD with no military aviation experience. He was reported to be a good organizer and administrator, and it also was alleged that he had Premier Castro's confidence. He knew nothing, however, about running an Air Force. His predecessor, Maj Juan Almida, left the Air Force to become Chief of the Cuban Army. The Air Force chief prior to Almida, of course, was Maj Pedro Diaz Lanz, who defected to the US. The significant point of this is that most of the key people in the Air Force are Diaz Lanz men, and since the defection of their chief they have rather effectively sabotaged the effective operation of the Air Force. This has been done through a slow down in the purchase of spare parts, snarl-ups in logistic support to aircraft, and improper assignment of personnel.
3. The Air Force had a total of 31 qualified pilots when I was discharged in June 1960. I heard that 23 of these were locked up on or about 10 Jul 60 when an abortive plot to bomb Havana and other areas of Cuba including

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28 OCT 1960

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba

REPORT NO.

OO- A 3170614

SUBJECT

Elias Motta, 1st Lt., Cuban Army;  
Anti-Castro.

DATE DISTR.

NO. PAGES

REFERENCES

DATE OF  
INFO.

To Mid-Aug 60

PLACE &  
DATE ACQ.

Throughout Cuba; To Mid-Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October-November 1960).

1. I became acquainted with 1st Lt. Elias Motta during my tour of duty with the Paratroop Regiment of the Cuban Army (February - December 1959). He had received paratroop training at Fort Benning, Georgia while serving in the Cuban Army under the Batista regime. He later was imprisoned by the Batista regime for involvement in the 4 Apr 56 conspiracy.
2. Lt. Motta was selected by Maj. Enrique Borbonet Gomez, Chief of the Paratroop Regiment, in January 1959 to serve as an instructor and battalion commander in the unit. He transferred to the Barracoa base near Havana with most of the other officers of the Paratroop Regiment when it was disbanded in January 1960. Lt. Motta instructed troops at Barracoa until he became involved in a conspiracy some time around July 1960, and he is now a fugitive. During the period that I knew him he was always extremely critical of the Castro regime.

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10 NOV 1960

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COUNTRY: Cuba/Nicaragua

REPORT NO.

100-A 3-178532

SUBJECT: Report of Phone Tap in Havana/Harold  
Martinez Now Leading Fronte Revolucionaria  
Sandino from Tegucigalpa, Receiving  
Mail in Name of Ricardo Gonzales

DATE DISTR.

NO. PAGES

## REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.      Inte Dec 60

PLACE & : Late

DATE ACQ: --; / Dec 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION.

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23-year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. During 1960 source became active in Havana in the Frente Revolucionario Sandino, a Nicaraguan revolutionary movement led by the Martinez brothers. When source left Cuba he planned to return to Honduras to assist the Nicaraguan rebels. 1

1. About one week ago [late December 1960] I received a long distance phone call from Jimmy Gentry, a friend of mine who also served with Castro's forces in Cuba during and after the Revolution. He stated that he was living at 953 Penn Street, SW, Miami, Florida, Telephone Franklin 4-3265. Gentry said it would be a very good idea for me to call Chester Simpson in Havana. Simpson, a Nicaraguan who spent most of his youth in the US, was working with us in Havana on the Nicaraguan Frente Revolucionario Sandino prior to my departure in mid-August 1960, and he had remained in Havana. Gentry reported that Simpson could be reached by calling Roberto Hernandez in Havana at 323945 or 323227.
2. I immediately placed a long distance call to the first number listed above and talked to a Cuban there. Simpson was not available on either of the two numbers at the time of my call so I requested that the Cuban find Simpson and have him available six hours later, which would be 0300 hours, Havana time. I placed a second call at that time and talked to Simpson. He was very happy to hear from me but he was not at all anxious to converse in any detail. He stated three times before I could understand him that I ought to know the phones were tapped. We then continued our conversation in a roundabout fashion without mentioning names, and very little information was developed.
3. I tried to find out from Simpson why Gentry had been so anxious for me to call him, but this was impossible to do using the double talk necessary because of the phone tap. I indicated to Simpson that he should establish contact with Harold Martinez (one of two brothers who head the Frente Revolucionario Sandino, the other brother is Alejandro), who finally was able to leave Havana in late August 1960 and who now is living in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
4. I asked Simpson if he had any information on William Morgan (without mentioning his name, naturally). Simpson was not able to provide any recent information on this man.

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**ANALYSIS**

[illegible]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 2020/04/23 : C06861328

Approved for Release 2020/04/21 : C06841328

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JOSEPH P. HENNING, JR., EX-US MARINE AND SERVED IN CUBAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE,  
FEBRUARY 1959 - JUNE 1960

1. A telephone call recently was received by H. Leibacher, Chief of the Los Angeles Field Office, from a man who identified himself as Jerry P. Henning, Jr., of 2403 West Valley Blvd., Alhambra, California. Mr. Henning reported that he was an ex-US Marine who had recently returned to the US from Cuba where he had served some 18 months in the Cuban Army (Paratroop Regiment) and the Cuban Air Force. (See enclosure 1, Biographic Data on subject.)

2. On 11 Oct. 1960 (and subsequently on 12 Oct. and 21 Oct. 1960) Hendrickson of the Los Angeles Office contacted Henning, who related the following. He left high school in the middle of his junior year to join the US Marine Corps (enlisted 19 Apr. 1954, 01,480,267). He reportedly rose to the rank of sergeant and during the latter portion of his tour (he was discharged on 17 Oct. 1958) he attended Bainbridge Naval Academy Preparatory School. Henning claimed to have been accepted into the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps subsequent to his attendance at Bainbridge and he reportedly was slated to attend the University of Missouri.

3. He changed his mind and decided not to enter the NROTC program because he wanted to engage in special forces type activity. He stated that he tried several times to obtain training of this type at Ft. Bragg and Ft. Benning but he was not successful. He then decided to leave the service and served the balance of his tour at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

4. Henning returned to California in October 1958 and worked at various odd jobs including heavy labor, as he put it "... to get in shape". He left for Cuba by air via Mexico on or about 18 Feb. 1959, arriving in Havana on 19 Feb. 1959. His reasons for going to Cuba are not completely clear in the mind of this writer (nor does the writer believe they are completely clear in Henning's mind), but among the reasons undoubtedly are the following:

a. A strong desire to experience the excitement and glamour of warfare, and particularly guerrilla warfare, and the opportunity to gain experience in this field.

b. The opportunity to combine the above-mentioned desire with identification with a "just" cause.

c. A desire to see for himself what was going on in Cuba, and possibly to carve a niche for himself from which he might be able to influence later developments.

5. At any rate, Henning reportedly bluffed his way into the Cuban Army, with no prior connections having been made in the US. (He claimed to have contacted officials in the Cuban Counsel's office in Los Angeles prior to his departure and also to have talked to a few 26th of July Movement members including a (now) Immunos, but received no help there.)

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JERRY P. HENNING, Jr.

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6. He reported that Capt. Johnny Mitchell, a US national who in February 1959 was serving at Headquarters, General Staff, Camp Colombia, befriended him and obtained a pass for him. He talked to a number of Cuban officers including Maj. (fau) Castillo and Maj. Emilio Cienfuegos. The latter sent him to Maj. Carlos Borbonet Cohen, a Ft. Ponsing trained officer (1949 or 1949) who was forming a Paratroop Regiment.

7. Major Borbonet reportedly did not like Henning or want him in his unit, but Henning obtained orders from "Emilio" detailing him to the Paratroop Regiment as an officer. Maj. Borbonet refused to accept him as an officer so he went into the unit as a Sergeant about the end of February 1959. Henning stayed with the unit until December 1959. He helped train paratroopers first at San Antonio de los Baños Air Force Base and later near San Jose de las Lajas, a small town about 11 miles southeast of Havana on the central highway. (See CO-2 reports, and for FBI gathered from Henning in initial debriefs. Advance copies of additional FBI collected from him will be forwarded, if desired.)

8. In December 1959 Henning transferred to the Cuban Air Force, since the Paratroop Regiment was obviously bogged down in training and had not even completed one jump. He was stationed at San Julian Air Force Base (inactive) where he flew patrols and helped train militia during the day and led some reconnaissance patrols against the anti-revolutionaries at night. He obtained a discharge from the Cuban Air Force in mid-June 1960 (between 10 and 15 June) and finally left Havana about 21 Aug. 1960. He flew to Mexico City and remained there until 30 Aug. 1960 when he entered the US via San Antonio, Texas.

9. While in the Cuban Army, Henning became involved with a number of Nicaraguans who allegedly were interested in mounting an invasion of Nicaragua from Cuba. While the details of this story as related by Henning are somewhat involved, the basic outline is roughly as follows. A Nicaraguan named (fau) Farfán contacted a number of troops in the Paratroop Regiment to recruit volunteers for an expedition to Nicaragua. About 15 of Henning's troops were involved. The expedition turned out to be well infiltrated with anti-Castro personnel and East Indians and the expedition appeared to have as its aim primarily the acquisition of arms for anti-Castro revolutionaries and also to embarrass Castro by tying him politically to a movement designed to overthrow President Amador in Nicaragua.

10. The expedition never left Cuba and Farfan's men were captured in Camaguey sometime during September 1960. Henning alleged that this abortive expedition got him interested in Nicaraguan activities in Cuba and he decided to find out more about them both for his own background and to attempt to protect his arm in the Paratroop Regiment. He then initiated contact with a number of Nicaraguans, Cubans, Dominicans, etc., who had as their primary aim the overthrow of established governments either in Nicaragua or the Dominican Republic.

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JAMES P. FARMING

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SECRET

11. Farming mentioned contact with Chester Larkin, who reportedly was located at one time in Washington, D.C. and who was attempting to establish a base to train Nicaraguans in Cuba prior to invading Nicaragua; plus contact with (an) Ramirez, a Dominican national who had been involved in the stealing of a Cuban plane which was flown to the Dominican Republic; and Dr. Francisco Frimones, a Nicaraguan exile who had been implicated in the assassination of ex-President Somoza and who had worked closely with Farfan until a break occurred between Frimones and Farfan in December 1959.

12. Farming was arrested by the Cuban G-2 on or about 15 July 1960 along with Frimones and Harold Martinez (whom Farming described as the number two man in the Nicaraguan movement located in Honduras). The three men were held for about five days and then released. Frimones, according to Farming, now is located in Venezuela. Harold Martinez had planned to leave Cuba with Farming and to spend some time in Mexico City. Harold Martinez could not leave the country, according to Farming, because the Nicaraguan Committee in Cuba had applied pressure to the Cuban Communists in order to prevent his return to Honduras and/or Nicaragua.

13. Farming also noted that Alejandro Martinez (Harold's brother) was the leader of a revolutionary column (Frente Revolucionario Sandino) which recently was captured by elements of the Honduran Army. Alejandro Martinez reportedly is now in prison in Honduras. Farming also referred to two Americans now located in Chicago, Jack Norborn and John Solz, who recently were captured in Tegucigalpa when they turned over some wounded Nicaraguan rebels to the Honduran Army.

14. These two Americans were removed from a Honduran prison and returned to the US sometime between mid-June and 1 July 1960, under what were rumored in Cuba to be mysterious circumstances. Reports in Cuba alleged that either CIA or FBI officials were instrumental in having these two men returned to the US. Farming states that in his opinion they both merely were deported from Honduras. He connected these two Americans with a Nicaraguan in Chicago named Guillermo Mujica who reportedly is awaiting trial in Chicago on charges of recruiting for a foreign government.

15. Farming claims to be standing by in anticipation of a journey to Honduras in connection with the movement headed by the Martinez brothers. He maintains that the Martinez brothers are anti-Communists who believe that neither the Cuban nor the Nicaraguan Communists are to be trusted. Farming claimed that Harold Martinez has close contacts with Cuban counter-espionage officials who have told him that the Counter-Espionage Corps (CEC) reports the other Cuban intelligence agencies (G-2, DITAI and DITR) are infiltrated by Communists and as enemies of the CEC. Farming reported that both the Martinez brothers and Frimones were very much afraid that any move they precipitated in Nicaragua would merely open the door for the Nicaraguan Communists in Cuba to move in and exploit the chaotic situation to their own benefit.

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JERRY S. HENNING

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16. Henning may have decided to contact CIA because of remarks made by a Sgt. Aldo Busto and by Dr. Francisco Prindones. Busto, an ex-Battista soldier who was a fugitive from the Castro regime when Henning left Cuba, reportedly said that CIA helped out in Guatemala and that it would be a good thing if they could help out in Cuba. Dr. Prindones stated that Chester Lacy had been close to right in contacting US Secretary of State Christian Herter in an attempt to elicit support for Lacy's Nicaraguan revolutionary movement.

17. While it is difficult to assess Henning's true motives for his past activities and possibly still more difficult to ascertain where his true loyalties lie, it does appear that he might be useful either now or in the near future. From conversations to date (three short sessions) it appears that Henning is not so closely allied with his Nicaraguan friends that he would find it impossible to concentrate his attention elsewhere. His interest in Special Forces type activity appears to transcend all other interests, and he probably would not hesitate to return to Cuba if such were thought useful.

18. His rationale in discussing his connection with the Nicaraguan movement (the Martinez Brothers) ties in directly with his (and many others') general thesis of intelligence operations connected with revolutionary movements. Henning maintains that the US should utilize a number of Special Forces types who may be able to reactivate certain revolutionary movements at an early stage, arrest positions of real influence within the organizations, and subsequently attempt to channel the movement's activities into areas which are most favorable, or at worst least detrimental to US interests. He foresees the inevitable fall of President Somoza in Nicaragua and, furthermore, that this fall will be brought about by the Martinez Brothers. He also claims to recognize the dangers of Communist take-over inherent in the overthrow of President Somoza, and he hopes that the US will be quick to prevent such, presumably through the use of people like himself.

19. Henning maintains that he is "first and foremost" an American, and that his true loyalty remains with this country. This may well be true, but it should be noted that his reasoning appears to be based primarily on his respect for the superior ability exhibited by the US military personnel he has served with in the past. He appears to be little influenced by deep beliefs in democratic principles.

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End - No Data on Subject

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba/Nicaragua  
 SUBJECT Crestes Del Rio, Captain, Air Force;  
 Anti-Castro

REPORT NO. 00A 3,170,329

DATE DISTR. 4 November 1960

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. To Mid-Aug 60

PLACE &amp; DATE ACQ. Throughout Cuba/To Mid-Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960, serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high-school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October - November 1960).

1. During my tour of duty in the Cuban Air Force (December 1959 - June 1960), I was stationed at San Julian Air Force Base in western Pinar del Rio province. I served there as the nominal second in command (although my actual rank was that of sergeant) under Capt Crestes Del Rio, Chief of the San Julian Air Base. In view of the informal relationships existing in the Cuban Air Force, I became quite close to Capt Del Rio.
2. This man was, and I believe still is, a captain in the Cuban Air Force. He is qualified to fly T-33, F-47, F-51 and AT-6 aircraft. When Pedro Diaz Luna became Chief of the Air Force, Del Rio was named Commander of the San Antonio de los Baños Air Force Base. He is a very intelligent man, but he does not like routine work and has a tendency to "goof off". As a consequence, he was transferred and became Chief of the San Julian Air Base in western Pinar del Rio.
3. While located at San Julian he befriended three Nicaraguan pilots, all 1st Lt's, Cuban Air Force, Ernesto Guerrero, Pedro Ullon, and FNU Gale, and became interested in a movement to overthrow the present government of Nicaragua. Del Rio protested vigorously to Maj Sergio Del Valle, present Chief of the Air Force when the Nicaraguan pilots Ullon and Guerrero were detained in January 1960. These two Nicaraguans allegedly were involved in a conspiracy with the local Captain of the San Julian militia [not further identified] in a planned expedition to invade Nicaragua. Del Rio was transferred in February 1960 to the new airport then under construction at Santa Clara, in Las Villas province.

4. In June 1960 Capt Del Rio again was transferred, this time to the T-33 training squadron at San Antonio de los Baños. There he completed a number of weeks of instruction under Capt Martin Klein, a US trained pilot who was sent to the US for training by the Batista regime, and Capt

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CC-B 3,170,529

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FWU Carreras, Squadron Chief. He was arrested along with 23 other Cuban Air Force pilots in mid-July 1960. These men were involved in an anti-Castro conspiracy to bomb the Havana, Santiago and Guantanamo areas, and some of them were involved in an expedition to invade Nicaragua. Capt Del Rio was released in August 1960 with a number of other pilots, and he remained close-mouthed at the San Antonio Air Base. I tried to question him after his release, but he would tell me nothing.

5. Capt Del Rio reads only English language books on aviation and war, but he speaks very little English. He is extremely dissatisfied with the Castro regime. He became even more incensed with the present Cuban Government when he learned of the arrest of a good friend who was the former Chief of the Rural Police Officers School at San Julian Air Base.

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NO DIRECT ALPHAS



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COUNTRY: Cuba/Czechoslovakia  
 SUBJECT: Air Force Technicians to Attend Radar School in Czechoslovakia/"Havana Air Force Base" Rumored Being Readied to Work on Secret Aircraft/Militia at San Julian Armed with Few Czech Carbines/Chinese Technicians.  
 DATE OF INFO: Mid-Aug 60 and earlier  
 PLACE: Throughout Cuba; Mid-Aug 60 and earlier  
 DATE ACQ: Throughout Cuba; Mid-Aug 60 and earlier

REPORT NO. CO-B-3,170,077

DATE DISR. 31 October 1960

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES CD/CO Case 33362

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October-November 1960).

1. Shortly before my departure from Cuba in mid-August 1960 (I had been discharged from the Cuban Air Force in mid-June 1960 but had remained in Havana for two months) I talked to Frank Rigal, an Air Force technician. He told me that he was to leave with about 30 other Cuban Air Force technicians in late August 1960 to attend a radar school in Czechoslovakia. He also stated that a Cubana Britannia airliner was to be used to fly this group to Czechoslovakia, probably via Spain. Rigal noted that he had heard that Cuban G-2 personnel were holding up this program because they did not know all of the details involved. Considering my own experiences with the confusion rampant in the Cuban military services and especially in the area of military intelligence, it appears to me to be quite possible that G-2 was attempting to stall this program until they could find out more of the details. I believe that the technicians finally departed for Czechoslovakia after I left Cuba, but I have no confirmation of this.
2. I talked to a Cuban Air Force pilot from Paracca (about 90 miles east-northeast of Guantanamo), who told me that 35 Cuban aviation cadets had been sent to Czechoslovakia for training. Some of the other Air Force pilots doubted this report, because they said no Czechs spoke Spanish [sic].
3. An interesting development occurred in mid-August at the "Havana Air Force Base" (presumably San Antonio de los Baños). About 50 percent of the mechanics at this base were transferred and the base was left under the command of Evans Morales (rank not known), a good friend of "Che" Guevara. It was rumored at the time that the base was being readied to work on new and secret aircraft (presumably Soviet).

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4. It is my belief that the Czech carbines which recently appeared in Cuba were transported to Cuba on a Soviet tanker [not further identified] which arrived in Havana about 5 Jan 60. This vessel docked at La Cabaña first, remaining there about six days, and then moved to the petroleum dock for unloading. I observed a few Czech carbines (with the broad blade, 9" bayonet which folds back along the side of the stock) in the hands of the militia at San Julian Air Force Base in early August 1960.

5. I personally did not see any Soviet Bloc military technicians during my tour of duty in the Cuban Army and Air Force (February 1959-June 1960). I did see a few Chinese technicians near the IITA (National Agrarian Reform Institute) building in Havana in late July 1960. One of these Chinese was supposedly an expert in rice cultivation. He spoke poor Spanish, and I overheard him extolling the wonders of the "new China" to a group of Cubans. I also heard of the appearance of a few Chinese technicians who were alleged to be experts in sugar cultivation, but I did not observe them and cannot verify their existence.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	OO-B 3,170,528
SUBJECT	Aldo Busto, Sergeant, Cuban Army; Anti-Castro	DATE DISTR.	4 November 1960
		NO. PAGES	1
		REFERENCES	
DATE OF INFO.	To Mid-Aug 60		
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	Throughout Cuba/To Mid-Aug 60		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high-school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October - November 1960).

1. I met Sgt Aldo J Busto during my tour of duty in the Paratroop Regiment, Cuban Army (February - December 1959). He served as instructor's together in this unit until Sgt Busto's discharge from the Army in August 1959. Sgt Busto, who is 31 years old, had served in the Batista Army for a number of years. He was involved in the conspiracy of 4 Apr '56, but remained in the Army and fought against Castro rebels in the Sierra Maestra and Escambray areas. While there were numerous ex-Batista soldiers in the rebel Army, Sgt Busto was well liked because he had once saved the lives of a number of Castro rebels who were captured and about to be summarily executed. He reportedly discharged his own lieutenant, who was determined to shoot the men.
2. Sgt Busto was selected by Maj Enrico Berhanet Gomez, Chief of the Paratroop Regiment, to become an instructor in the unit in January 1959. In my opinion he was a first class soldier. He was discharged in August 1959 following the "Trujillo incident" of 10 Aug 59. He had always remained critical of the Castro regime during the period that I knew him (February - August 1959), and he reportedly continued to associate with Batista elements after his discharge.
3. I last saw Busto in Havana on 18 Aug 60, where he was spending a few days with his cousin, Sergio Gatria. Gatria is a member of the National Police Security Section, and he previously had been a member of the National Police "Confidential Section". Busto reportedly received a warning from his cousin, that the G-2 was interested in him, and fled Havana a few days after I saw him. I believe he is still a fugitive.

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Chief, Personnel Security Division, OS

27 August 1964

ATT: Mr. Steven Kuhn

Mr. Edward Bunn

Chief, Contact Division, OO

RE: GERALD, Gerald Patrick -- Permission to Reveal  
EE-29229 Identity of a US Citizen  
 as a Source of this Agency  
 to the FBI

REF : Mr. Bunn's oral request regarding FBI interest in information  
 resulting from interviews with Subject

1. This Division has no objection to your revealing  
 to the FBI that Subject is a source of this Agency, provided  
 the FBI does not disclose his identity outside the Bureau.

2. The reports listed below resulted from our interviews  
 with Subject:

OOB 3,159,985	OOB 3,179,856
OOB 3,169,982	OOA 3,178,533
OOB 3,170,124	OOA(S) 3,170,536
OOB 3,170,077	OOA(S) 3,170,529
OOB 3,170,615	OOA(S) 3,170,528
OOB 3,172,187	OOA(S) 3,170,614
OOB 3,179,740	OOA(S) 3,170,615
	OOA(S) 3,154,427

Copies of the reports are attached as requested.

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 105-3978-44

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 downgrading and  
 declassification

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-2-

27 August 1964

SUBJECT: HERMING, Gerald Patrick -- Permission to Reveal  
Identity of a US Citizen  
as a Source of this Agency  
to the FBI

3. Any questions pertaining to this memorandum should  
be directed to Mrs. Virginia Thorne, Ext. 2202.

JAMES R. MURPHY

Attachments: As stated above

APPROVED:

SIGNED: J. LAROCQUE, JR.

Assistant Director for Operations28 AUG  
1964Date

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